



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

June 30, 2005

For immediate release

1. Maquoketa, Volga River water quality improvement meetings start next week

**MAQUOKETA, VOLGA RIVER WATER QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT MEETINGS START NEXT WEEK**

MANCHESTER — Beginning with meetings next week, eastern Iowans can help the DNR in improving the water quality of the Maquoketa and Volga rivers.

Bacteria levels are threatening both rivers' ability to support their designated use for primary contact recreation, like swimming. The DNR is asking for your input on how to improve the rivers' water quality at five upcoming public meetings.

Much of the meetings will be dedicated to listening to local residents' concerns and opinions regarding the rivers' water quality. A short presentation on water monitoring results in the Maquoketa and Volga rivers will also be offered.

Following are the details of the public input meetings:

Maquoketa River:

Manchester: July 7, 10 a.m.

Pizza Ranch, 1100 West Main St.

Maquoketa: July 13, 7 p.m.

Hurstville Interpretative Center, 18670 63rd St., Maquoketa
(one mile north of Maquoketa on US Hwy 61)

Monticello: July 14, 7 p.m.

Monticello Community Building (above City Hall), 200 East First Street

Volga River:

Elkader: July 6, 7 p.m.
Clayton County Conservation Center,
6 miles south of Elkader on Hwy. 13
Fayette: July 7, 7 p.m.
Wildwood Nature Center, four miles north of Fayette on Hwy. 150

Both the Maquoketa River and Volga River are included on Iowa's 303(d) impaired waters list due to high levels of fecal coliform bacteria. The water quality improvement plan, also called a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), will identify potential sources of the bacteria, investigate the severity of the problem, and suggest improvements to the river and land draining to the river that would reduce the amount of bacteria.

The Maquoketa River watershed includes the following counties: Fayette, Clayton, Buchanan, Delaware, Dubuque, Linn, Jones, Jackson and Clinton. The Volga River watershed is located in Fayette and Clayton counties.

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